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\$1.4 million Given to Municipalities for Taxpayer Relief

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The Board of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission today allocated \$1.4 million for taxpayer relief through its Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) for its 14 constituent municipalities for 2006.

“We are proud to continue to provide this service to our residents and to make such a significant contribution to their quality of life,” said NJMC Chairman and Acting Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Charles Richman. “This money will help municipalities provide key services to the people of the Meadowlands that would otherwise require a tax hike. It’s another way in which we are working toward a vision of regional success.”

The MAP grants are part of the \$33 million MAGNET (Meadowlands Area Grants for Natural and Economic Transformation) fund. Through MAP, each of the 14 municipalities in the Meadowlands District would receive a set amount toward the purchase of new equipment, programs or improvement work. Each town will be granted \$100,000. Including today’s allocation, a total of \$8.6 million has been allocated to Meadowlands municipalities since MAP’s inception in December 2002.

“The Meadowlands Master Plan calls for a better quality of life for our residents and more sustainable communities, not only environmentally and economically, but also from the standpoint of residents’ pocket books,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. “Today we are seeing another installment in our effort to help municipalities meet the challenge of serving their residents and keep tax rates at a manageable level. It’s another way of keeping our commitment to a 360-degree approach to better standards of living for the people of the Meadowlands.”

The funding will be applied as followed:

Bergen County

- Carlstadt will use the funds to purchase hot tar paving equipment, a police chief vehicle with communication equipment, and a police cruiser with a patrol safety package.
- East Rutherford will apply the funds towards a new ambulance.
- Little Ferry will acquire police vehicles, DPW equipment for flood control, fire department equipment, and recreation equipment.
- Lyndhurst will use the funds for engineering and design work for the Polito Avenue project.

- Moonachie will apply the funds toward a hooklift truck.
- North Arlington will acquire an ambulance and potentially a police vehicle.
- Ridgefield will purchase a new ambulance.
- Rutherford will purchase a senior bus and police vehicle.
- South Hackensack will update emergency equipment for its fire and police departments, purchase a new police car and develop a Web site for borough services.
- Teterboro will use the money to help fund the West Riser Ditch project.

Hudson County:

- Jersey City will purchase emergency management equipment.
- Kearny will purchase a police patrol vehicle and equipment, turnout gear for its fire department, and pump maintenance and pump station repairs.
- North Bergen will purchase police vehicles and potentially lease a garbage truck.
- Secaucus will apply the funds to reconstruction of athletic fields.

Outstanding applications from the remaining municipalities are expected to follow shortly.

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